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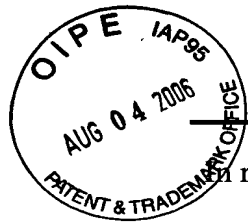
TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)		Application Number	10/815883-Conf. #9073
		Filing Date	March 31, 2004
		First Named Inventor	Iain KALFAS
		Art Unit	3733
		Examiner Name	A. R. Reimers
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number	DUQ-002 (DEP5290)

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
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Date	August 4, 2006	Reg. No.	51,146

DUQ-002(DEP5290)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Re the application of: Kalfas, *et al.*

Application number: 10/815,883

Filed: March 31, 2004

For: *Spinal Rod Connector*

Attorney Docket No.: DUQ-002 (DEP5290)

Art Unit: 3733

Examiner: Annette R. Reimers

MS AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This Response is filed responsive to the Final Office Action mailed May 4, 2006, (Paper No. 20060501). In view of the comments set forth below, Applicant submits that the pending claims are patentable and in condition for allowance.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 3 of this paper.